

Phyllis Wise is dean of the Division of Biological Sciences and a Distinguished Professor of neurobiology, physiology and behavior.

As a neuroscientist, Dean Wise studies how the brain and hormones interact. She is recognized as one of world's foremost experts on the role that estrogens play in maintaining normal brain function and their importance in protecting the brain against injury and neurodegenerative diseases. Her research has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1980 and she is the recipient of an Ellison Foundation Senior Scholar Award.

As dean of biological sciences, she chairs the campus Administrative Coordinating Council for Biological Sciences, which oversees life sciences initiatives such as the UC Davis Genome Center.

She received her bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College, and earned a master's in biology and a doctorate, both from the University of Michigan. From 1976 to 1993 she was on the faculty in the Department of Physiology of the School of Medicine at the University of Maryland at Baltimore. From 1993 to 2002, Dr. Wise was chair of the Department of Physiology at the College of Medicine of University of Kentucky. She accepted the position of Dean of the Division of Biological Sciences in 2002.

Dean Wise is the recipient of many awards, including the Award for Excellence in Science from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in 2002. Given by the federation's 16 scientific societies, the award recognized her long history of excellence in research, teaching and mentoring. In 2003 she received the Women in Endocrinology Mentor Award. The Endocrine Society has selected her for its 2004 Roy O. Greep Award for outstanding contributions to research in endocrinology.